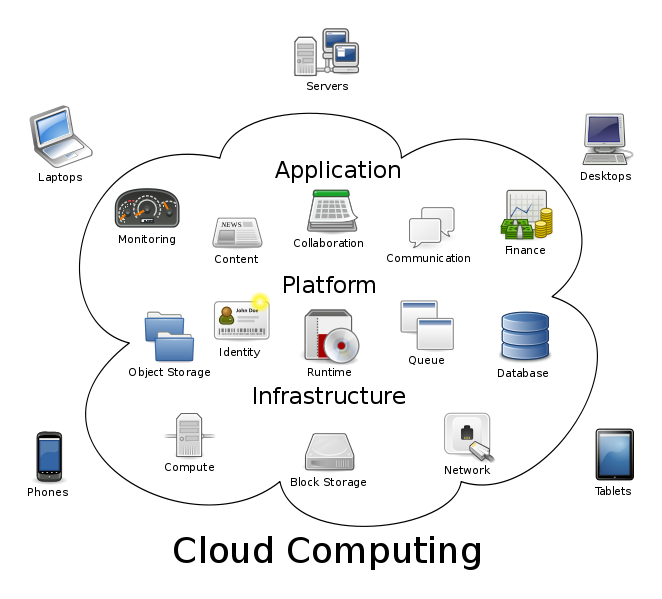
**Cloud computing** is the delivery of computing as a service rather than a product , whereby shared resources, software, and information are provided to computers and other devices as a utility (like the electricity grid ) over a network ( typically the Internet ).



Cloud computing provides computation, software, data access, and storage services that do not require end-user knowledge of the physical location and configuration of the system that delivers the services. Parallels to this concept can be drawn with the electricity grid , wherein end-users consume power without needing to understand thecomponent devices or infrastructure required to provide the service.

**The concept** of cloud computing fills a perpetual need of **IT**: a way to increase capacity or add capabilities on the fly without investing in new infrastructure , training new personnel , or licensing new software . Cloud computing encompasses any subscription – based or pay – per – use service that , in real time over the internet , extends **IT**'s existing capabilities .

Cloud computing describes a new supplement, consumption, and delivery model for **IT** services based on Internet protocols, and it typically involves provisioning of dynamically scalable and often virtualized ( ظاهرية) resources. It is a byproduct and consequence of the ease-of-access to remote computing sites provided by the Internet. This may take the form of web-based tools or applications that users can access and use through a web browser as if the programs were installed locally on their own computers.



Cloud computing providers deliver applications through the internet, which are accessed from a web browser , while the business software and data are stored on servers at a remote location. In some cases, legacy إرث ) ) applications (line of business applications that until now have been prevalent ( سائد ) in thin client Windows computing) are delivered via a screen-sharing technology, while the computing resources are consolidated ( موحد ) at a remote data center location; in other cases, entire business applications have been coded using web-based technologies such as **AJAX** .

Most cloud computing infrastructures consist of services delivered through shared data-centers and appearing as a single point of access for consumers' computing needs. Commercial offerings may be required to meet **service-level agreements (SLAs)**, but specific terms are less often negotiated by smaller companies.

